

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 02259 171201Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1336
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2259

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS IS MZ US GE
SUBJ: EFFORTS TO FREE ISRAELI HELD IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. SHABTAI KALMANOVITCH, AN ASSISTANT OF MK SHMUEL
FLATTO-SHARON, CALLED ON AN EMBOFF FEB 14 TO DISCUSS
THE CASE OF MYRON MARCUS. THE STORY OF MARCUS' MISADVENTURE
AND IMPRISONMENT HAS REAPPEARED IN THE ISRAELI PRESS IN
RECENT DAYS.

2. MARCUS, AN ISRAELI NATIONAL LIVING IN RHODESIA, SET
OUT IN A PRIVATE PLANE IN SEPT 1976 FROM BULAWAYO
FOR PETERSBURG, SOUTH AFRICA. MARCUS AT THE CONTROLS
WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW. APPARENTLY THE
PLANE WAS BLOWN OFF COURSE IN A STORM AND LANDED IN
MOZAMBIQUE. FIRED ON BY MOZAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES, THE
BROTHER-IN-LAW WAS KILLED AND MARCUS SEVERELY WOUNDED.
MARCUS WAS ACCUSED OF SPYING AND FOLLOWING TREATMENT
FOR HIS WOUNDS WAS IMPRISONED. TO THIS DAY HIS FAMILY (HE
HAS A WIFE AND CHILD) HAS NOT RECEIVED ONE DIRECT WORD FROM
MARCUS. HOWEVER, THEY KNOW FROM THE RED CROSS AND FROM
CONTACT WITH A PORTUGUESE OFFICER AND TWO MOZAMBICANS THAT
MARCUS IS ALIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 02259 171201Z

3. ACCORDING TO KALMANOVITCH, MARCUS' PARENTS, WHO
LIVE IN ISRAEL, HAVE WRITTEN TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND
SENATOR KENNEDY, AMONG OTHERS, BUT WERE TOLD THAT
SINCE MARCUS IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN THERE WAS LITTLE
THAT AMERICAN AUTHORITIES COULD DO. WHEN THE PARENTS
APPEALED TO FLATTO-SHARON HE SENT KALMANOVITCH TO

BERLIN TO CONTACT EAST GERMAN ATTORNEY WOLFGANG VOGEL WHO HAD A PART IN THE EXCHANGE OF GARY POWERS FOR RUDOLF ABEL AND MORE RECENTLY, BUKHOVSKY FOR A CHILEAN COMMUNIST. VOGEL TOLD KALMANOVITCH THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE THE RELEASE OF MARCUS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE FREEING OF ROBERT G THOMPSON, PRESENTLY SERVING A SENTENCE IN THE LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA PENITENTIARY FOR CONSPIRACY AND/OR ESPIONAGE. KALMANOVITCH GAVE US A COPY OF THOMPSON'S PETITION FOR PARDON ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND DATED MAY 3, 1977. (IF THE DEPARTMENT WISHES, A COPY OF THE PETITION WILL BE POUCHED.)

4. KALMANOVITCH, ACCOMPANIED BY MARCUS' MOTHER, IS DEPARTING FOR THE US WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND HOPES TO SEE RABBI ALEXANDER SCHINDLER AND SENATOR KENNEDY. APPARENTLY HE WILL EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF A MARCUS/THOMPSON EXCHANGE. KALMANOVITCH MADE NO REQUEST OF THE EMBASSY. HE MERELY INDICATED THAT HE WANTED TO INFORM US OF HIS PLANS AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELPFUL ADVICE. THE EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD PASS THE INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. SOME TIME LATER KALMANOVITCH PHONED THE EMBASSY TO RELAY FURTHER INFORMATION HE SAID HE HAD OVERLOOKED. MARCUS' PARENTS HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE PORTUGUESE OFFICER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 02259 171201Z

AND THE TWO MOZAMBICANS THAT MARCUS HAD ESCAPED IN JULY 1977 AND MANAGED TO REACH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MAPUTO. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE EMBASSY TURNED HIM OVER TO MAZAMBIQUE AUTHORITIES. LEWIS

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